

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the application of  
Yoshihiro FUKANO et al.

U.S. Serial No. 10/706,945

Group Art Unit: 3679

Filing Date: November 14, 2003

Examiner: Dunwoody, Aaron M

Title: TUBE JOINT

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

In compliance with the duty of disclosure under 37 CFR § 1.56, the attached form and document(s) indicate information of which the applicant(s) has/have recently become aware which may be relevant to the above-identified application.


The information is in the form of references, which have been cited, in a corresponding Office Action from the German Patent Office, dated September 15, 2004 as a foreign counterpart application to the present application.

A copy of the German Office Action is enclosed, along with eleven (11) references cited therein.

The fact that the references have been cited in the foreign counterpart application satisfies the applicant's requirement for an explanation of relevance concerning these citations, according to MPEP § 609. Accordingly, consideration of all references is both proper and required.

The Examiner is requested to indicate consideration of this information by initialing and returning a copy of the Information Disclosure Citation form (PTO-1449) attached herewith.

37 CFR 1.97(e) Statement. Each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this information disclosure statement.

Signed,  Date: November 10, 2004  
Paul A. Guss

This information is being submitted after receiving a first Office Action, but before receipt of a Final Office Action on the merits. Hence, in accordance with the 37 CFR § 1.97(e) Statement above, no fees are due. Should it be deemed that any fees are due in connection with this or any accompanying communication, authorization is given to charge such fees to the Attorney's Deposit Account No. 07-2519.

Respectfully submitted,



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PTO/SB/08A (08-03)

Approved for use through 07/31/2008. OMB 0651-0031

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Substitution for form 1449/PTO  <b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</b> <i>(Use as many sheets as necessary)</i>		<b>Complete If Known</b> Application Number      10/706,945 Filing Date                November 14, 2003 First Named Inventor      Fukano et al. Art Unit                      3679 Examiner Name            A. Dunwoody Attorney Docket Number   CS-31-031114	
Sheet	1	of	1

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FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages Or Relevant Figures Appear	T <sup>o</sup>
		Country Code*Number*Kind Code* (if known)	MM-DD-YYYY			
		JP 2001-193876	07-17-2001			
		DE 41 41 309	09-10-1992			
		DE 37 37 062	12-14-1989			
		DE 195 28 195	02-06-1997			
		DE 87 00415.1	04-02-1987			
		DE 73 36 713	01-17-1974			

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. <sup>1</sup>Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). <sup>2</sup>See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at [www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov) or MPEP 901.04. <sup>3</sup>Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). <sup>4</sup>For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. <sup>5</sup>Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. <sup>6</sup>Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 (1-800-786-9199) and select option 2.

